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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 23 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 1 and 15 March 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 1-15 March 1999

1. In the northern region 195 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Irbil, Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Zakho, Rawanduz, Baibo and Sinjar, as well as the Saddam dam.

2. In the southern region 511 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Karbala', Amarah, Kut, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Rifa'i, Mu'aniyah, Umm Qasr, Safwan, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Ali al-Gharbi, Hawr al-Hammar, Madinah, Ansab, Nukhayb, Afak, Suq al-Shuyukh, Chabaish, Najaf South, Hayy, Hashimiyah, Shatrah, Shu'aybah, Faw, Maymunah, Badrah, Hillah, Suwayrah, Aziziyah, Jabal Sanam and Barjisiyah.

3. On 1 March 1999 formations of United States and British aircraft bombarded civilian targets in Ninawa Governorate and carried out two attacks on the residential complex for the Northern Oil Company's Ayn Zalah oilfield. A number of residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment, and it also destroyed another link in the system controlling the operation of the Iraq-Turkey pipeline, isolated the metering station west of Zakho and caused serious damage to civilian installations.

4. At 1325 hours on 1 March 1999 15 formations of United States F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and British Tornadoes supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft from inside Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. These formations carried out 29 sorties and overflew areas of Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa governorates. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1640 hours, drove them off.

5. At 1350, 1507 and 1540 hours on 1 March 1999 United States and British aircraft fired 10 projectiles at a civilian locality in the Mosul area. A number of civilian residents were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

6. At 0850 and 1600 hours on 4 March 1999 20 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory and supported by AWACS and E-2C early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. These formations carried out 22 sorties from Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew areas of Basrah, Dhi Qar and Muthanna governorates and fired two projectiles at the fields of a Basrah resident. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1657 hours, drove them off.

7. At 0850, 0855, 1015, 1040, 1120, 1435, 1505, 1525 and 1526 hours on 4 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the Basrah and Umm Qasr areas.

8. At 1620 hours on 4 March 1999 a United States and British formation dropped two guided bombs in the Barjisiyah area of Basrah Governorate.

9. At 0913, 0921, 0930, 1024, 1025, 1535, 1550 and 1643 hours on 5 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

10. At 0830 hours on 6 March 1999 nine formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. These aircraft included F-14s and F-15s, they were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and they carried out 16 sorties from Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew areas of Basrah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna and Maysan governorates and fired missiles at civilian localities and services-related sites. A number of civilian residents were killed in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0930 hours, drove them off.

11. At 0858, 0920, 0925 and 0930 hours on 6 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

12. At 1125 hours on 6 March 1999 17 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. These formations included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s, and they were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft. They carried out 35 sorties in the Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa areas and fired 15 projectiles at civilian localities in the Mosul district. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

13. At 0905 hours on 6 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region and dropped a cluster bomb in the Amarah area. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

14. At 1115 hours on 8 March 1999 11 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-18s and were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C, from inside Saudi airspace. These formations carried out 20 sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 18 from Saudi airspace and overflew areas of Basrah, Maysan, Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Wasit governorates. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1255 hours, drove them off.

15. At 1755 hours on 8 March 1999 16 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-18s and were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C, from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 16 sorties from Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti airspace, overflew areas of Basrah, Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Maysan governorates and fired five projectiles at a civilian locality. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1900 hours, drove them off.

16. At 0950 hours on 8 March 1999 11 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft. They overflew areas of Ninawa and Dohuk governorates and carried out 23 sorties. They bombarded several civilian localities, and a number of residents were wounded. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

17. At 1315, 1325 and 1815 hours on 8 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern and southern regions. They bombarded a number of civilian localities and fired five projectiles and four missiles. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1250 hours, drove them off.

18. At 1250 hours on 9 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace and fired eight projectiles at a number of civilian localities in the northern region.

19. At 1130 hours on 9 March 1999 United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft from inside Turkish territory. They overflew areas of Ninawa and Dohuk Governorates, carried out 20 sorties and fired five projectiles at a services-related site in Ninawa Governorate. A number of residents were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1335 hours, drove them off.

20. At 0850 hours on 10 March 1999 eight formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. These formations included F-14s, F-16s and F-18s, and they were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft. They carried out two sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 14 from Saudi airspace and overflew areas of Dhi Qar, Basrah, Maysan, Muthanna and Najaf governorates. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0955 hours, drove them off. At 1525 hours on the same day eight formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory again penetrated Iraq's airspace. They included F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and F-18s, they carried out eight sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 14 from Saudi airspace, and they were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C. They overflew areas of Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Muthanna governorates, and they bombarded a number of civilian localities. Several residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1635 hours, drove them off.

21. At 1205 hours on 10 March 1999 two formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. These formations included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s, and they overflew areas of Ninawa, Dohuk and Irbil governorates. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

22. At 0913 hours on 11 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region in Dhi Qar and Najaf governorates and the Samawah and Ghammas areas. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

23. At 1230 hours on 12 March 1999 nine formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. These formations included United States F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and British Tornadoes. They carried out 18 sorties, overflew areas of Ninawa, Dohuk and Irbil governorates and fired eight projectiles at civilian installations in Ninawa Governorate. A number of residents were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1510 hours, drove them off.

24. At 1200 hours on 14 March 1999 11 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft. They overflew areas of Ninawa and Dohuk governorates, carried out 22 sorties and bombarded a number of civilian localities and services-related sites. Several residents were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

25. At 1220 hours on 14 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region and fired 11 projectiles at a civilian locality in the Mosul area. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

26. At 0925 hours on 14 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the Hayy area.

27. At 1030 hours on 14 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the Afak area and fired four projectiles at a civilian locality. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

28. At 1256 hours on 15 March 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region and fired eight projectiles at a civilian locality. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

29. At 1130 hours on 15 March 1999 eight formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. These formations included United States F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and British Tornadoes. They carried out 17 sorties, overflew areas of Ninawa, Dohuk and Irbil governorates and fired eight projectiles at a number of civilian localities in Ninawa Governorate. Several residents were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

30. At 0850 and 1545 hours on 14 March 1999 32 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait penetrated Iraq's airspace. These formations included United States F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and British Tornadoes, and they were supported by two AWACS early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace. They carried out 40 sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 36 from Saudi airspace, overflew areas of Basrah, Muthanna, Najaf and Dhi Qar governorates and bombarded a services-related installation. A number of residents were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1700 hours, drove them off.

31. At 1030 hours on 15 March 1999 14 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. These formations included F-14s, F-15s and F-18s, and they were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C, from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 24 sorties from Saudi airspace and 11 from Kuwaiti airspace. They bombarded a number of services-related installations, and a number of residents were wounded in the bombardment. They overflew areas of Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Najaf and Muthanna governorates. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off. At 1527 hours on the same day 11 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory again penetrated Iraq's airspace. These formations included F-14s, F-15s and F-18s, and they were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C, from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out eight sorties from Saudi airspace and 18 from Kuwaiti airspace and overflew areas of Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Muthanna governorates. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.